

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 00939 041145Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-11

SAJ-01 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01 NEA-10

SAM-01 SAB-01 /116 W

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R 041056Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2313

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

UNCLAS ANKARA 0939

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, US

SUBJECT: HURRIYET ARTICLE ON SECURITY NEGOTIATIONS

1. FEBRUARY 4 HURRIYET CARRIES A LENGTHY REPORT ON THE U.S.-TURKISH BILATERAL SECURITY NEGOTIATIONS BY ITS WELL-CONNECTED CHIEF ANKARA CORRESPONDENT, CUNEYT ARCA YUREK. UNDER THE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE, "WE CAN'T REACH AGREEMENT ON THE MONEY FOR THE BASES," ARCA YUREK WRITES THAT THERE WILL BE NO "REAL SIGNIFICANCE" IN FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL'S TRIP TO THE U.S. IF AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 9 IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SEC GEN ELEK DAG AND AMBASSADOR MACOMBER. HE REPORTS THAT THE U.S. HAS "AGREED IN PRINCIPLE" TO PROVIDE MONETARY AID FOR THE BASES, WHICH REPRESENTS A CHANGE FROM THE PREVIOUS U.S. REFUSAL TO GIVE MONEY TO A NATO ALLY IN EXCHANGE FOR MILITARY FACILITIES.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ANKARA 00939 041145Z

2. ARCA YUREK STATES THAT ALTHOUGH AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON MOST OF THE 25 ARTICLES OF THE AGREEMENT (INCLUDING THE CHANGE FROM JOINT INSTALLATIONS TO TURKISH INSTALLATIONS AND PROVISIONS FOR CUSTOMS IMMUNITIES AND THE OPERATION OF THE PX'S WHICH ARE MORE IN TURKEY'S FAVOR THAN IN THE 1969 AGREEMENT), THE "REAL CONFLICT" IS OVER THE AMOUNT OF GRANT AID AND LOANS AND THE DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO ARCA YUREK, WASHINGTON HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE "TO UNDERTAKE TO EXTEND MONETARY AID" AND HAS SUGGESTED HOW THE UNDERSTANDING COULD BE WRITTEN IN THE AGREEMENT, BUT IS OPPOSED TO CITING AN AMOUNT. THE U.S. HAS OFFERED AN AMOUNT OF LESS THAN ONE BILLION DOLLARS OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD, WHEREAS TURKEY WANTS A GUARANTEE OF 1.5 BILLION FOR THREE YEARS, A SUM THE U.S. THINKS "VERY EXCESSIVE".

3. ARCA YUREK QUIOTES AN UNNAMED SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL WHO STATES THAT THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO PROCEED: "THE FIRST IS TO ASK FOR THE GREATEST AMOUNT WE COULD FORCE FROM AMERICA AND THE SECOND IS TO FIX A REASONABLE AMOUNT THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET. WE PREFER THE SECOND WAY." ARCA YUREK REPORTS THAT TURKEY HAS CITED THE EXAMPLE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND THE SPANISH BASE AGREEMENT, BUT THE U.S. REJECTS THE COMPARISONS SINCE THOSE COUNTRIES ARE NOT NATO MEMBERS NOR UNDER A "DEFENSE UMBRELLA".

4. THE ARTICLE QUOTES A PROVISION IN THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT WHICH STIPULATES THAT IF AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON A SUM AND IF THE USG OR USCONGRESS DOES NOT APPROVE THE ANNUAL LEVEL OF AID, "THE OPERATIONS OF THE BASES WILL BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY, THE BASES CLOSED AND U.S. PERSONNEL WILL DEPART TURKEY WITHIN A PERIOD TO BE ESTABLISHED. IN EXCHANGE, TURKEY GIVES ASSURANCE THAT IT WILL NOT CREATE DIFFICULTIES IN THE OPERATIONS OF THE BASES." A SEPARATE AGREEMENT IS TO BE PREPARED CONCERNING OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTIES IF THE BASES ARE CLOSED.

5. ARCA YUREK PREDICTS THAT BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN WRAPPING UP AN AGREEMENT. THE USG CANNOT "GUARANTEE" THAT THE CONGRESS WILL APPROVE THE AID LEVEL REQUESTED AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ANKARA 00939 041145Z

THE CONTINUED PRESENCE IN CYPRUS OF TURKISH TROOPS ARMED WITH U.S.-MADE EQUIPMENT MEANS THAT CONGRESS MAY NOT APPROVE AN AGREEMENT. ON THE TURKISH SIDE, THE WEAKNESS OF THE "FOUR-HEADED" GOVERNMENT AND THE POSSIBILITY OF OPPOSITION BY THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) INDICATE THAT THE MOST FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES CAN ACCOMPLISH IN WASHINGTON WILL BE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON THE AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE AND THE DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA00939
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760042-0271
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760285/aaaacwnb.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HURRIYET ARTICLE ON SECURITY NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006